

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Obey,

As you begin Conference deliberations on H.R. 5441, the Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge your support for the Leahy/Stevens provision included in the Senate-passed bill. The provision makes much-needed changes to implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) by providing DHS and State an extended deadline, as well as setting parameters for alternative documents.

As you are aware, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 requires the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and State to implement a plan, called WHTI, to require travelers re-entering the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean to present documents denoting both identity and citizenship by January 1, 2008. We believe the Intelligence Reform bill gives DHS and State discretion to develop low-cost and easily obtainable documents for U.S. travelers. Unfortunately, DHS and State have proposed that all travelers carry a \$97 passport or a loosely defined \$55 travel card, commonly referred to as the PASS card. These documents are prohibitively expensive and difficult to obtain for many American families, and do nothing to encourage travel into the U.S. Should DHS and State implement WHTI as-planned, cross-border commerce will dry-up and significantly damage border communities, international trade, and the travel industry.

In addition to the serious problems with the proposed documents, DHS and State are far behind in implementing WHTI by the January 1, 2008 deadline. The agencies have not determined the type of technology to include in the PASS card or requested funding in the FY 2007 budget to install new card-readers at land and sea ports-of-entry. Such inaction has led the Government Accountability Office to state that DHS and State will likely miss the 2008 implementation date.

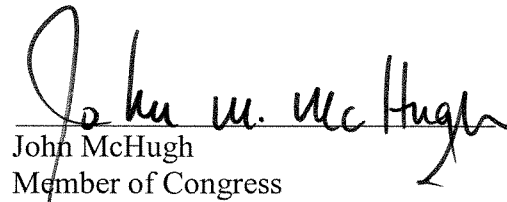
It is clear that Congress must step-in and provide DHS and State the direction for getting WHTI done right before it is too late. The Senate's FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill contains language that would extend the WHTI deadline and give DHS and State clear instructions for implementing the PASS card system. Specifically, the Leahy/Stevens provision establishes a uniform implementation date of June 1, 2009 for sea and land travel; sets limits on the cost of the PASS card; requires DHS to share the PASS card technology with Canada and Mexico and install PASS card readers at all

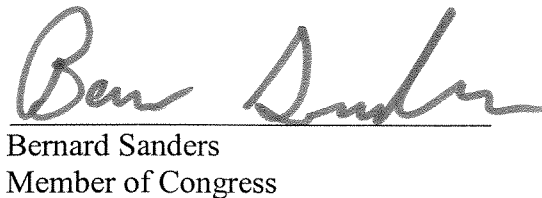
land ports of entry; and establishes alternative procedures for groups of children traveling across the border with parental consent.

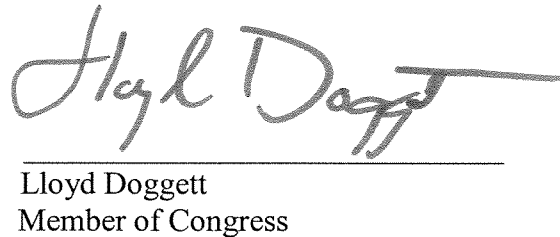
The Leahy/Stevens provision is a necessary first-step toward ensuring that WHTI strengthens border security without unintentionally closing our borders to legitimate trade and travel. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to make certain that the Senate's WHTI language is retained in the final conference report for the FY 2007 Homeland Security appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

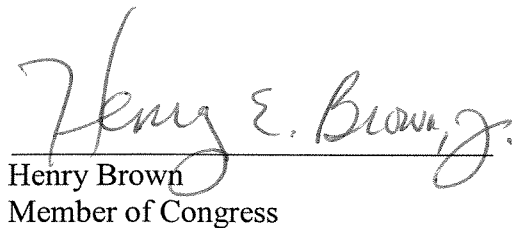
Sincerely,

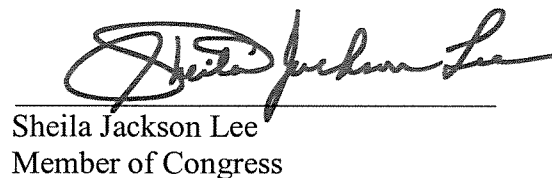

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

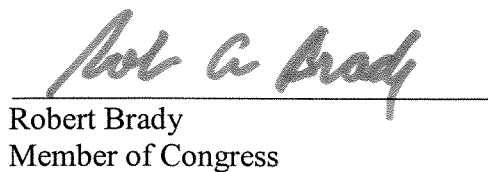

John McHugh
Member of Congress

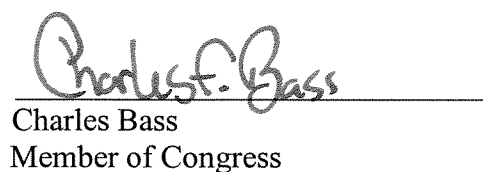

Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

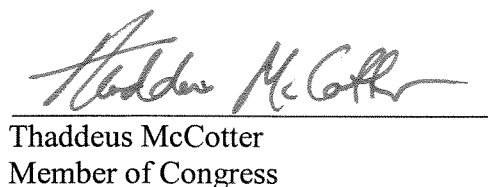

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

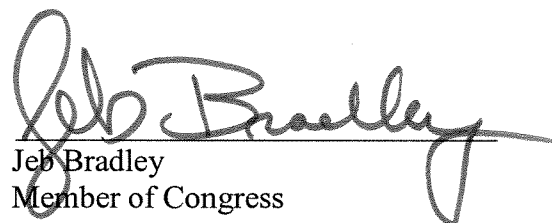

Henry Brown
Member of Congress

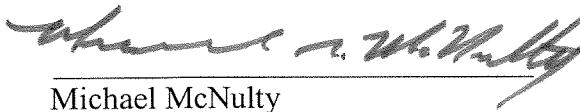

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Robert Brady
Member of Congress


Charles Bass
Member of Congress


Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress


Jeb Bradley
Member of Congress



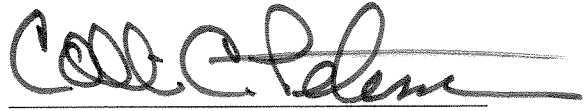
Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



Mark Kennedy
Member of Congress



David Reichert
Member of Congress



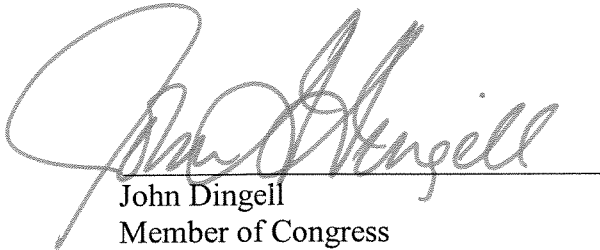
Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



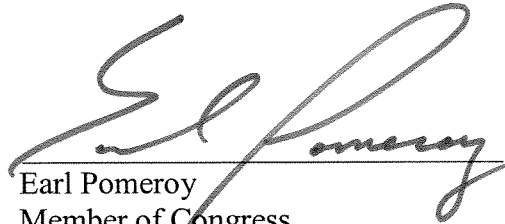
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



John Dingell
Member of Congress



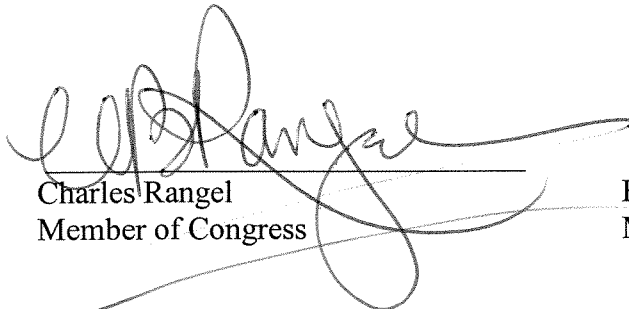
Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress



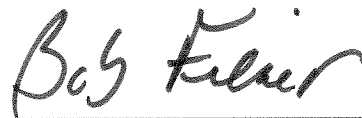
Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress



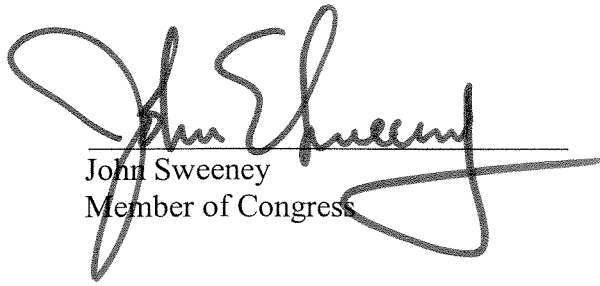
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



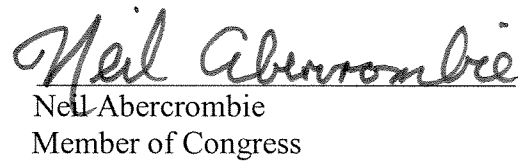
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



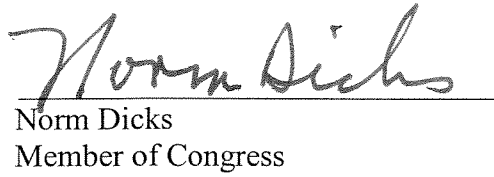
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



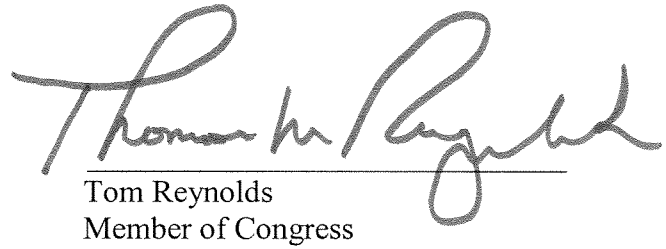
John Sweeney
Member of Congress



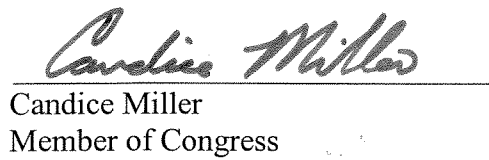
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



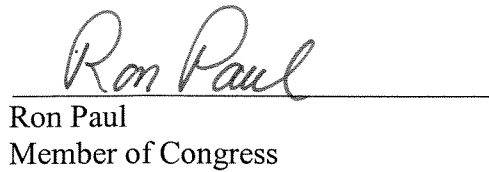
Tom Reynolds
Member of Congress




Candice Miller
Member of Congress



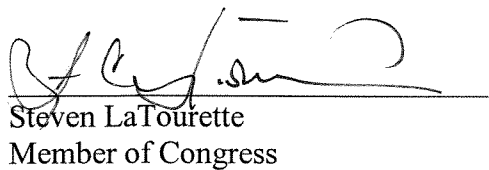
Michael Doyle
Member of Congress



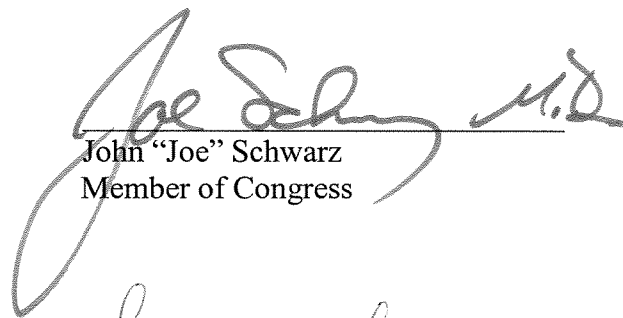
Ron Paul
Member of Congress



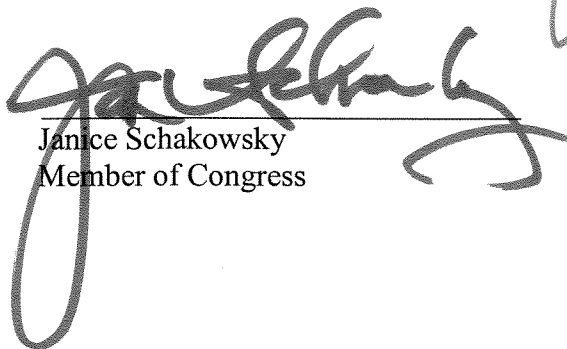
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



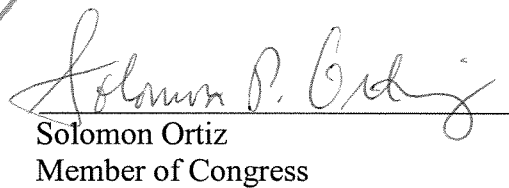
Steven LaTourette
Member of Congress



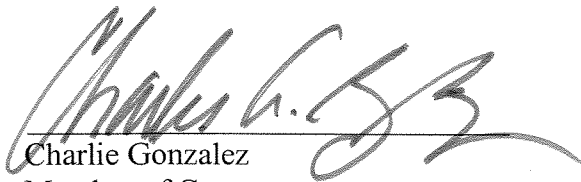
John "Joe" Schwarz
Member of Congress



Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress



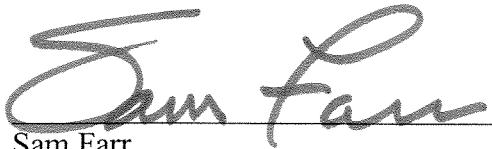
Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress



Charlie Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak
Member of Congress



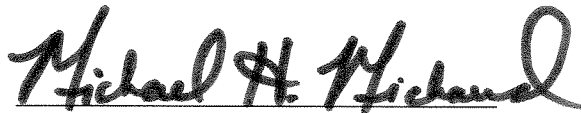
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



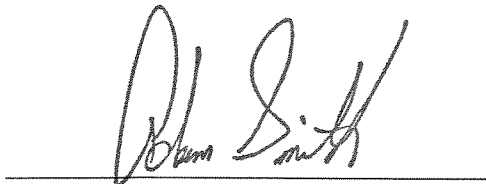
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



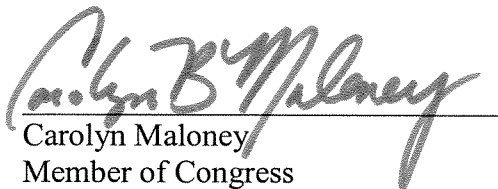
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



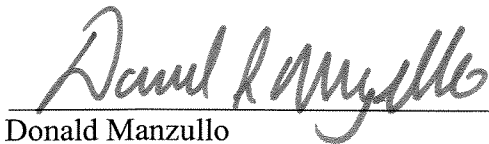
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



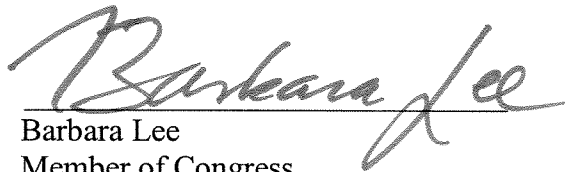
Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress



Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



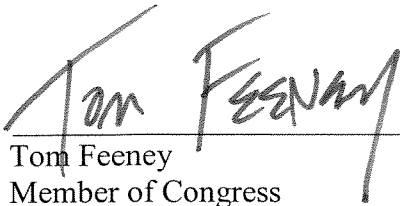
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



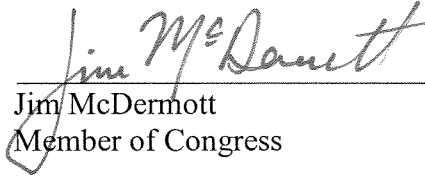
Tom Allen
Member of Congress



Heena Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Tom Feeney
Member of Congress



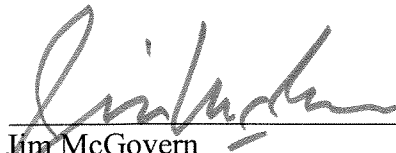
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



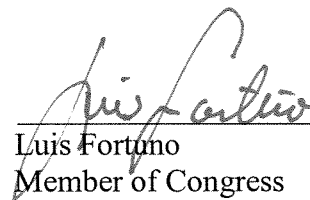
Ric Keller
Member of Congress



Brian Baird
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Luis Fortuno
Member of Congress



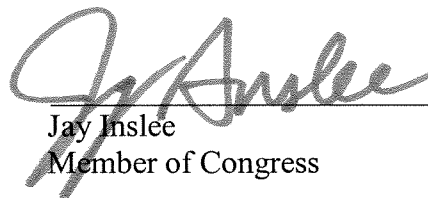
William Jefferson
Member of Congress



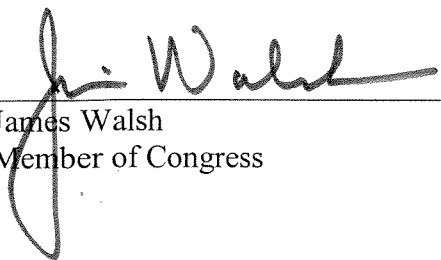
Phil English
Member of Congress





Fred Upton
Member of Congress

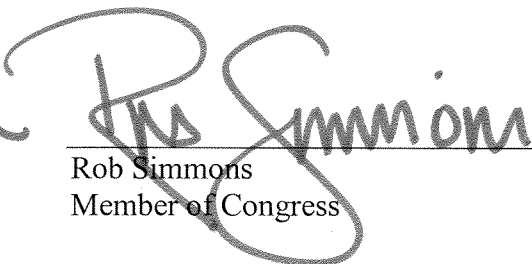


Jay Inslee
Member of Congress


James Walsh
Member of Congress


Rush Holt
Member of Congress


Diane Watson
Member of Congress


Rob Simmons
Member of Congress

Slaughter/McHugh WHTI Letter to House Appropriations Committee 07/27/06

1. *Rep. Louise Slaughter*
2. *Rep. John McHugh*
3. **Rep Bernard Sanders**
4. *Rep. Lloyd Doggett*
5. *Rep. Henry Brown*
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7. *Rep. Robert Brady*
8. *Rep. Charles Bass*
9. *Rep. Thaddeus McCotter*
10. *Rep. Jeb Bradley*
11. *Rep. Michael McNulty*
12. *Rep. Mark Kennedy*
13. *Rep. David Reichert*
14. *Rep. Collin Peterson*
15. *Rep. Sherrod Brown*
16. *Rep. Silvestre Reyes*
17. *Rep. John Dingell*
18. *Rep. Earl Pomeroy*
19. *Rep. Sherwood Boehlert*
20. *Rep. Raul Grijalva*
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22. *Rep. Bob Filner*
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30. *Rep. Rick Larsen*
31. *Rep. Steven LaTourette*
32. *Rep. Joe Schwarz*
33. *Rep. Jan Schakowsky*
34. *Rep. Solomon Ortiz*
35. *Rep. Charles Gonzalez*
36. *Rep. Bart Stupak*
37. *Rep. Sam Farr*
38. *Rep. Corrine Brown*

- 39. Rep. Susan Davis
- 40. Rep. Michael Michaud
- 41. Rep. Adam Smith
- 42. Rep. Carolyn Maloney
- 43. Rep. Donald Manzullo
- 44. Rep. James Oberstar
- 45. Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart
- 46. Rep. Barbara Lee
- 47. Rep. Tom Allen
- 48. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
- 49. Rep. Tom Feeney
- 50. Rep. Jim McDermott
- 51. Rep. Ric Keller
- 52. Rep. Brian Baird
- 53. Rep. Jim McGovern
- 54. Rep. Luis Fortuno
- 55. Rep. William Jefferson
- 56. Rep. Phil English
- 57. Rep. Fred Upton
- 58. Rep. Jay Inslee
- 59. Rep. James Walsh
- 60. Rep. Rush Holt
- 61. Rep. Diane Watson
- 62. Rep. Rob Simmons